

A Broken And Contrite Heart (Nehemiah Ch 9)

Proposition: In this chapter we can see five characteristics of the broken and contrite heart that is essential to our Christian life.

I. A Repenting of their Sin (Vs. 1-3)

- A. There must be Humility (Vs. 1)
- B. There must be Holiness (Vs. 2a)
- C. There must be Honesty (Vs. 2b)

II. A Reading of the Scriptures (Vs. 3a-b)

- A. An Esteem for the Word (Vs. 3a)
- B. An Effort in the Word (Vs. 3b)

III. Recognition of their Source (Vs. 4-6)

- A. A Praise-worthy Source (Vs. 5)
- B. A Primary Source (Vs. 6a-c)
- C. A Preserving Source (Vs. 6d-e)

IV. A Remembering of their Salvation (Vs. 7-30)

- A. The Covenant of Salvation (Vs. 7-8)
- B. The Conversion of Salvation (Vs. 9-11)
- C. The Constraint of Salvation (Vs. 13-14)
- D. The Control of Salvation (Vs. 12, 15-21)
- E. The Conquest of Salvation (Vs. 22-25)
- F. The Chastisement of Salvation (Vs. 26-29)
- G. The Compassion of Salvation (Vs. 30)

V. A Recounting of their Sparing (Vs. 31-38)

- A. A Merciful Sparing (Vs. 31-32)
- B. An Unmerited Sparing (Vs. 33-35)
- C. A Motivating Sparing (Vs. 36-38)

A Broken + Contrite Heart Neh 9

Psalm 51: 15-17 I remember in grade school, when the little girl classmate would lose their boyfriends she would draw on their wall bracelets a heart with a jagged crack through it. That was suppose to be a broken heart. Is that really what a broken heart looks like? Ps. 51 says that God really doesn't want a sacrifice or burnt offering but he wants a broken + contrite heart. Well what does one look like. I believe in this chapter of Neh. we can see five characteristics of the broken and contrite heart that is essential to our Christian life.

I. A Repenting of Sin (Vs 1-3) These people saw their failures before God and instead of running from God they came clean before God. Notice what they did.

A. There must be Humility (Vs 1) - These were elements of grief & mourning. Fasting in desolation need of God. Sack cloth made from goat & camel hair, itchy & irritating. The dust represented their origin. Repentance ^{now before God} whenever

B. There must be Holiness (Vs 2a) - They separated themselves from the world around them. You can't repent of sin and belong to them. There must be a cutting away from

sin and turning to God!

C. There Must be Honesty (Vs b) - We can't repeat
of sin unless we become completely honest
about them. Their sins and sins of fathers.
The creed said we are guilty of sin on
all accounts. No excuses. Not my brother nor my

II. A Reading of Scriptures (Vs 3a-b)

Ps 119 longest chapter. Bible relates the influence
of scripture to the human heart. Broken heart
is to be filled.

A. An Esteem for the Word (Vs 3a) -

It has been our tradition here to stand
upon the reading of God's word. This is
to impress on ourselves and on our children
an esteem for the word of God. These
people had been in exile and now the
word was being re-introduced to them so
they gave it due respect. Do you revere God's word?

B. An Effect in the Word (Vs 3b) - They
read the word for one fourth part of the
day. They put an effect into the reading of
the word. If we are to have a broken & contrite
heart we need to hear the voice of God! Take
your time when reading, compare verses,
study words. Write down thoughts & questions
~~3~~ I'll admit this is not easy. Proper growth

III. Recognition of their Source (Vs 4-6)

Upon reading God's word the people are
compelled to pray. God speaks to us
and we are compelled to answer back,

1) Psalms 51:15-17 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

2) ...a broken heart is to be filled with God's word!

3) ...proper growth in life is not easy it may be rewarding, but it's not easy. **1 Peter 2:1-3** *Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

dark night of the soul overcometh me, but still I trust in it.
blow thy cold winds thou tremblest now; for I am still at rest
to go about my business, though my spirit is still at ease.

- 1) Psalms 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
- 2) Psalms 19:1-2 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
- 3) ...want a broken and contrite heart, spend an evening looking up and the heavens and think about how big God is and how small you are!

A. A Praise-Worthy Source (Vs 5)- When I pray oft times I follow a pattern called A.G.T. S. Adoration, confession, thanksgiving + supplication. Here we see the "A" adoration. They as Ps 100:4 says Enter into His gates w/ Ps 100:4

B. A Primary Source (Vs 6a-c) - They identify God as the creator of all!

Ps. 19:1-2 Words indicate that the heavens continually declare the Glory of God. That the creative works gush forth w/ God's Glory. You want

C. A Preserving Source (Vs 6d-e) - With all the millions of galaxies and stars out there God is preserving them, containing them, regulating them. The God we look up to is a God that is in complete control.

IV. A Remembering of their Salvation (7-31)

A. The Covenant of Salvation (7-8) - They recall abrahamic covenant. Covenant to Jews. We are a chosen people, therefore knowned of God.

B. The Conversion of Samson (9-11) They reflect on bondage in Egypt and how God brought them out. This is great type of NT conversion. By blood.

C. The Constraint of Salvation (13-14) Once redeemed they give a law to follow. We too fall under the constraints of God's word.

D. The Control of Salvation (Vs 15-21) God takes leadership of this people, responsibility for and education of this people. How he does this in our everyday

E. The Conquest of Salvation (Vs 22-25) God

allowed these former slaves to conquer the land of promise. We too can mark out today of Victim

F. The Chastisement of Salvation (26-29)

Prone to wander, despite all this their heart wandered, but a contrite heart remembers the best

G. The Compassion of Salvation Vs 30

Despite our wandering heart, God's compassion will not cast off his people, but call and plead for return

V. A Recounting of their Sparing (31-38)

A Broken and contrite heart will recount the times at which God could have rightfully abandoned but mercifully and graciously did

A. A Merciful Sparing (31-32) - God

may has chastized his people at the hand of foreign nations but he would not utterly consume them. God mercifully & graciously spared his people. Few souls have gone the way of the

B. An Unmerited Sparing (33-35) - This sparing was completely undeserved. They

forsook his law. They denied the rich blessings of God and refused to turn from wicked works. Oh how this is a picture of our hearts so

C. A Malicious Sparing (Vs 36-38)

This realization that God had spared them through all the sin and rebellion of their hearts, hearts of fathers motivated them to dedicate their lives to Lord and record their decision

VI Closing - A Broken & contrite heart of God

than a fit vessel! Do you have a broken

1) ...have a broken and contrite heart? Do you want one? You can have one? A broken and contrite heart reflects on these questions:

What if God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank Him yesterday?

What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we did not follow Him today?

What if God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?

What if God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?

What if God took away His message because we failed to listen to His messenger?

What if the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door of our heart?

What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

What if God would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him yesterday?

What if God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?

What if God met our needs the way we give Him our lives?